

Message Text

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THE FOLLOWING REPEATS PARIS 30750 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON ROME
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1974. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENEG FR US UR EEC

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S
DECEMBER 20 TELEVISED INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF GISCARD'S DECEMBER 20
TELEVISED INTERVIEW WITH FOUR LEADING MEMBERS OF THE
FRENCH PRESS, AS HEARD BY EMBASSY OFFICERS AND TRANS-
LATED FROM INCOMPLETE TEXT. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS BY
SEPTTEL.

2. CSCE: "MR. BREZHNEV IS GREATLY ATTACHED TO THIS
CONFERENCE AND VERY MUCH HOPES THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE
AT THE SUMMIT. UP TO NOW THE POSITION OF A CERTAIN
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAS BEEN TO SAY, 'WE WILL SEE IF
THE RESULTS WARRANT HAVING A SUMMIT OR NOT.' I INDICA-
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TED TO MR. BREZHNEV THAT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED,

PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT TAKING A POSITION, IN PRINCIPLE, FAVORABLE TO A SIGNATURE AT THE SUMMIT. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED. ON THE THIRD QUESTION, THAT IS TO SAY, THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS, MR. BREZHNEV HAD MADE NEW PROPOSITIONS WHICH I CONSIDER AS POSITIVE. SINCE RAMBOUILLET, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME POSITIVE PROPOSITIONS, CERTAIN OF WHICH HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF DIRECT FRANCO-SOVIET CONVERSATIONS, WHICH ENABLE US TO CONSIDER THAT THERE IS A MARKED ACCELERATION IN THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

"I SPOKE ABOUT THIS TO MR. SCHMIDT BY TELEPHONE TO TELL HIM WHAT I HAD SAID TO MR. BREZHNEV. I SPOKE ABOUT IT TO MESSRS. FORD AND KISSINGER. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN, BUT THE CURRENT STATE OF PROGRESS PERMITS THINKING THAT IT HOPEFULLY MIGHT BE CONCLUDED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1975."

3. ON BREZHNEV: GISCARD STRESSED THAT HE HAD THE FEELING THAT BREZHNEV HAS A PROFOUND AND DELIBERATE DESIRE FOR PEACE.

4. FRENCH COOPERATION WITH NATO: "THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE FRENCH POSITION VIS-A-VIS NATO. WE DO NOT BELONG TO THE INTEGRATED COMMAND. WHAT WE CALL COOPERATION IS THE CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND NATO."

5. FRENCH RELATIONS WITH US AND USSR: GISCARD SAID THAT FRENCH RELATIONS WITH THE GREAT POWERS ARE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE INEQUALITY OF POWER. HE ADDED THAT IT IS EASIER TO HAVE EQUAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR BECAUSE ALL THE PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE TREATED GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT, WHILE WITH THE UNITED STATES PROBLEMS ARE OFTEN TREATED IN OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT CHANNELS.

6. MIDDLE EAST: GISCARD SAID THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY A CONVERGENCE OF ANALYSIS IN MANY COUNTRIES ABOUT THE ME SITUATION AND THAT SOLUTIONS ARE ALMOST PERCEIVABLE. HE UNDERLINED THAT NO AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT A UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLUTION TO THE BASIC PROBLEM OF PALESTINE. HE THEN NOTED THREE PROBLEMS IN THE AREA: THE PALESTINIANS, OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, AND ISRAEL. HE SAID THE SOVIET AND FRENCH ANALYSES OF THE SITUATION ARE THE SAME, AND THAT A GREAT MANY EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES AGREE WITH THE FRENCH THESIS.

7. BRITISH RELATIONSHIP TO EC: GISCARD EMPHASIZED

THAT BRITAIN WAS NOT SEEKING TO RENEGOTIATE THE ROME TREATY NOR WAS THE UK TRYING TO RENEGOTIATE ITS ENTRY TERMS.

REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES IS NO LONGER THE AMERICAN OBJECTIVE, HE SAID, FOR RELATIVELY EXPENSIVE OIL IS NECESSARY FOR MEDIUM-TERM POLITICAL REASONS WHICH ARE TO DEVELOP AMERICA'S OWN RESOURCES. GISCARD SAID THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN MAINTAINING CURRENT PRICES AND THAT HE THOUGHT THE AMERICAN OBJECTIVE WAS A SLIGHT REDUCTION IN PRICE.

9. F-104 REPLACEMENT: GISCARD SAID: "AT MARTINIQUE WE SPOKE VERY FRANKLY ABOUT THE EXISTING COMPETITION BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US FOR SUPPLYING A SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT TO FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WE DID NOT RESOLVE (ABOUT) THIS PROBLEM. WE REMAIN IN COMPETITION."

10. GOLD: GISCARD SAID THAT FRANCE DID NOT PROPOSE, AS THE SHAH MAY BELIEVE, REVALUING THE REAL PRICE OF GOLD, BUT MERELY PROPOSED THAT CENTRAL BANKS WHICH HAVE GOLD SHOULD COUNT IT AT ITS ACTUAL VALUE.
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